

*Red Sea*  
*Sept. 7 1921*

**STANDING RULES**

**FOR**

**Officers' Messes**

**OF**

**THE ROYAL**

**CANADIAN DRAGOONS**

400-7-21

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## OFFICERS' MESS RULES

### THE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS

1.—The members of the Mess shall consist of all Officers of the Royal Canadian Dragoons. Members.

2.—All Officers of the Headquarters and District Staff and Permanent Active Militia of Canada shall be ipso facto Honorary members of the Mess. Honorary Members.

3.—Officers of the Non-Permanent Active Militia, Retired officers of the Imperial Forces and Civilians may be made Honorary members of the Mess subject to the approval of the Commanding Officer. Such honorary members, however, shall not be permitted to ask friends to the Mess.

4.—The committee are empowered to invite as Honorary Members any individuals, Naval or Military, not resident at the station, and who have called upon the Mess.



Temporary  
Members.

5.—Officers attached for instruction are temporary members of the Mess.

Dining  
Members.

6.—All officers present with the Regiment, except married officers, are to be Dining members of the Mess. When their wives or families are absent, married officers are also to become dining members. Officers attached for instruction, unless specially exempted, will also be dining members.

Subscription.  
Entrance.

7.—Officers on the strength of the Regiment will on appointment pay to the Mess fund of the mess of the Regiment a contribution fixed by the Commanding Officer, but not to exceed thirty days pay. All contributions are to be charged in monthly instalments of three days pay on the original net pay of each officer's rank, exclusive of all allowances.

On promo-  
tion.

When an officer of the regiment is promoted in the Regiment he is to pay in like manner a sum not exceeding thirty days difference between the original net rates of pay of the rank attained and of the rank from which he is promoted.

If an officer is exchanged, transferred in the same rank, or is promoted to the Regiment, he is chargeable with the whole amount of contribution to the Regiment, but is not to be charged with payment to Mess fund of his former unit beyond the month during which his removal takes place.

On Exchange  
Transfer,  
etc.

An officer's contribution is due according to the dates given in the *Canada Gazette* or in the case of posting, the date given in the posting notice, and will be assessed by those dates.

When due.

An officer on being seconded, or on retiring, is not to be charged with regimental subscriptions beyond the date of his removal as notified in *Canada Gazette*.

On Leaving  
Regiment.

Married officers are liable to only one-half of the annual subscription when they do not regularly attend the mess as Dining members.

Married  
Officers.

Officers of the Non-Permanent Militia attached to the Regiment for instruction will be required to pay a daily rate of "Table money" not to exceed \$8 per month while so attached.

Attached  
Officers.

Attached  
Officers  
Bills.

Bills incurred at the Officers Mess form a first charge upon the pay of the officer incurring them. To this end the pay of all officers of the Active Militia attached for instruction is transmitted to them through the Officer Commanding.

Attached  
Officer  
in arrear.

If an officer, about to be struck off the attached strength of the Regiment is in arrears in his mess bill, he is not to be detailed pending payment. The officer Commanding will, without delay, report the case to G.O.C. of the District, stating the amount the officer is in arrear.

Committee.

8.—A committee consisting of at least two combatant officers shall be selected to have the general management of the Mess, the senior of whom shall be President.

No Medical or other Departmental officer shall be eligible for selection as President, or to have charge and superintendence of the Mess.

Duties  
of the  
Committee

9.—The Mess Committee shall see the Standing Regulations enforced, permitting no deviation therefrom; they shall keep up



the stock of glass, linen, cutlery, etc., for the Mess, and a sufficient supply of wine in the cellar, and all orders to tradesmen shall be given, and all payments made by them only.

10.—The Committee are hereby authorized and enjoined to notice everything which may be prejudicial to the comfort and interests of the body of Officers, having due regard to the provisions of the previous paragraph. Committee to notice anything prejudicial to Mess.

11.—It shall be the special duty of the President of the Mess Committee to examine closely the general charges, for the correctness of which he shall be responsible, and which shall not be divided until the several items have been submitted and approved by him. General Charge, examination of

12.—All complaints against the Messing, of neglect or misconduct of the Mess servants will invariably be made to the President of the Mess in writing, and no Officer not on the Committee shall call them personally to account for any real or alleged Complaints.

misconduct, such being the special duty of the Committee.

Officers'  
Servants.

13.—The Committee will arrange for the attendance of Officers' servants, properly dressed, to wait at Mess.

Charge of  
Cellar.

14.—The contents of the cellar will be placed under the charge of a member of the Committee, and he will be held responsible that a correct account of the Wine is kept, taking stock as often as the President may deem necessary, and not less than once a month.

New  
Committee  
to account  
for all  
deficiencies.

15.—On the appointment of a new Committee an exact inventory of the Mess property and contents of the cellar will be handed to them by the Committee going out of office, and a record made in the Minute Book that this has been done.

Mess  
Meetings to  
take place  
Monthly.

16. At the monthly Mess meeting of all officers present, to be held the 2nd Monday of each month, any member may make any proposition that in his opinion may be of advantage to the Mess.



17.—All proposals having the approval of the Commanding Officer of the Regiment shall be put to vote, and the decision of the majority shall bind the whole. But no addition, alteration or amendment to these Rules can be made without the concurrence of the Officer Commanding, and a majority of two-thirds the total number of Officers of the Regiment.

18.—At each monthly Meeting an exact state of the funds of the Mess shall be produced by the Mess President.

19.—A Minute Book will be kept where- in to enter all the ordinary proceedings of Mess Meeting and such resolutions as may have a temporary bearing only.

20.—A President and Vice-President will be appointed weekly. The President and Vice-President will not leave their places at the Mess table until every one has risen, except they find substitutes.

21.—The President, assisted by the Vice-President, shall see to the general regu-

larity and order of the Mess table, the dress and behaviour of the servants. The President and Vice-President shall not be absent from Dinner, except they provide substitutes, and the Vice-President shall remain in his chair until permission is given him to leave by the President.

Mess  
Guest  
Night.

22.—One day in each week (to be nominated according to circumstances) will be fixed for the entertainment of private guests. At each monthly Mess meeting the selection of a monthly Guest night will be made and on such Guest night all members of the Mess, unless excused by the C.O., must be present.

23.—As far as possible, Mess guests and private guests will be invited to dine on the weekly guest night so as to ensure the presence of the members to receive them.

24.—All dining members absenting themselves from dinner will give due notice to the Mess Sergeant in order that only the proper number of places may be set.

25.—Individuals invited in the names of the Commanding Officer and Officers of a Mess shall be considered "Mess guests," and only their share or proportion of Wine and Mess expenses will be equally divided among all the Officers pro rata according to rank.

Mess Guests,  
expense of  
entertain-  
ing, how  
defrayed.

26.—A notice will be put up in the ante-room when Mess guests are expected to dine at the Mess.

27.—Any Officer intending to invite one or more friends to dine on guests' night will give notice to the Mess Sergeant the day before dinner, or at least by nine a.m. of that day, unless when a friend may arrive unexpectedly at the station. Should an Officer fail in this he shall be charged double for each guest not duly warned for; the penalty to be placed to the credit of the Mess Fund.

Private  
Guests of  
Officers.

28.—At Inspection Dinners or Luncheons all Officers, married or single, must be present. The "additional" expenses incurred

Public  
Enter-  
tainments.



Expenses,  
how  
defrayed.

by such Inspection Dinner or Luncheon, including the whole cost of the wines, etc., consumed by the guests, will be equally defrayed by all members of the Mess present and absent pro rata, according to rank. Every non-dining member and member dining at the Mess will pay for his own dinner, and each Officer will pay only for such wines as he may have personally partaken of.

Mess,  
closing of.

29.—The Mess will be closed at midnight, the last Mess member leaving it to order it to be closed.

30.—After the Mess is closed and the Mess Sergeant and waiters have left the Mess, they are under no circumstances to be roused up by any Officer, and no Wine, etc., will be issued by the Mess Sergeant.

31.—A division of labour will be arranged between the Mess Waiters so as to enable one of them to be in livery by 3 p.m. daily.

Bills, when  
payable.

32.—All Mess and Wine bills will be paid before the seventh of the month, and all fines will be credited to the Mess Fund.

33.—All errors or overcharges in the daily wine book will be communicated to the Mess Sergeant within forty-eight hours, otherwise they cannot be rectified, except absence, duty, sickness, or other sufficient cause prevents the discovery of the error; and, as the Wine book shall be daily laid in the Mess Room for inspection, it will be an Officer's own fault if he does not examine its correctness, and he will, therefore, have no right to complain.

34.—An Officer proceeding on leave for three days or longer may be exempted from payment for Messing provided he gives notice to the Mess Sergeant.

Errors and Over-charges, how remedied.

Officers on leave.

35.—A member shall not be permitted to bring Wines or Liquors of his own to the Mess table.

Wines, etc.

36.—When Champagne, Claret or Sauterne is partaken of, it will be charged equally to all Officers drinking it. In the case of the other Wines each Officer shall pay for what he consumes.

37.—Officers drinking any particular Wine at dinner and wishing to finish it afterwards, may only do so by permission of the President.

Champagne,  
how served.

38.—When Champagne is drunk it will not be handed round till the *entrees* are served.

Surplus  
Wine.

39.—On the Guests and Officers leaving the table, it will be the duty of the Vice-President to see that the Wine remaining on the Mess table is secured by the Mess Sergeant.

Mess  
Property  
not to be  
taken out of  
the Mess.

40.—No article of Mess property will be allowed to be taken, unless with special permission, out of the Mess by married Officers or others; the Mess, however, will provide the necessary articles for Officers on guard or sick list.

Dinner  
Hour.

41.—The dinner hour shall be settled by a majority of two-thirds of the dining members, subject to the sanction of the Commanding Officer.



42.—All orders to the Band, whether as Band. to extra music, or for its dismissal, when it is playing at Mess, shall be given by the Senior Officer present.

43.—No Officer shall be allowed to open Letters etc. letters or read them at the dinner table without the permission of the President.

44.—On Inspection Dinners or Luncheons no Officer shall be allowed to invite private guests.

45.—Whenever it is proposed to give an Entertainment to another corps, or to any guest or guests, the rule prescribed by H.M. Regulations must be complied with. Entertainment to another Corps.

46.—It is imperative on the Senior Officer present to preserve order and gentlemanly behaviour at the table, and to stop any offensive discussions of a personal, religious or political nature, that may tend to create discord. Duty of Senior Officers present at Mess.

47.—Any member of the Mess who shall wilfully or wantonly lose, break or injure any article of Mess property shall be Breakages.

charged double the price of the same, but if such articles are destroyed by accident on the part of the members, by their guests, or by their servants, they shall only pay the costs of replacing the same.

48.—In order to secure care on the part of the Mess servants, a part of the cost price of any article broken by them, but not exceeding the half of its value, shall, at the discretion of the Mess President, be stopped from their wages.

Treating.

49.—The practice of officers treating each other to wine, liquor, cigars, cigarettes, etc., within the premises of their own Mess is strictly prohibited. This rule is equally applicable to gentlemen who are Honorary Members, but does not extend to the case of offering hospitality to strangers calling upon the Mess, or Officers of other Corps invited into the Mess while on duty in the vicinity.

Dogs.

50.—No dogs will be admitted into the Mess or ante-room, and Mess servants will

be directed to drive out all dogs that may at any time enter; and if the dog's master be present, a fine of twenty-five cents will be levied on him.

51.—No official books or documents are Official to be brought into the Mess premises, viz., Books, etc. the Mess room, ante-room and billiard room. Caps, sticks, swords, etc., will not be left therein, and the use of slippers is prohibited.

52.—No smoking will be allowed in the ante-room within the quarter hour preceding the second Mess bugle, and on Guest Night no pipes will be permitted in the ante-room unless by special permission.

53.—The Officers' dress for Mess will be Officers' according to regulation, and no member Mess Dress. will be allowed in the Mess premises in plain clothes after the first dinner bugle has sounded.

54.—No Officer shall appear in the Mess premises after dinner unless in Mess or evening dress.



55.—It will be the duty of the Mess Committee to see that every Member, Temporary Member and Honorary Member is provided with a copy of the Officers' Mess Rules, the same to be paid for.



